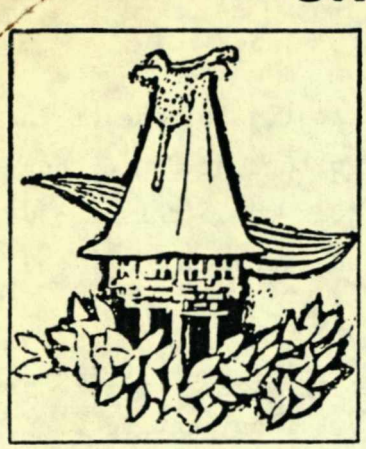
em timor-leste
a paz é possível

TL 2269



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES - December 1984 to May 1985

We had proposed to put out this sort of report more often but due to excess work it comes out rather later than we wished.

Although actions at the national and the international level are mutually influenced, we will try to divide our actions according to this criterion.

Work related to the Human Rights Commission will be examined separately.

I - HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION - Genève

A - 41.st Session - Prior to the Session we prepared a small "dossier" for the Embassies in Lisbon of the members countries of the Commission.

- Luisa Teotónio Pereira, member of the group as well as of the CDPM, was chosen by the participants in the international meeting held in London (January, 12 and 13), to continue the work which she had started in the sub-commission in August 1984.

Besides the usual contacts, Luisa spoke before the Commission in the name of Pax Romana. The documents we had received a few days before Luisa's departure were translated and typed out and were used to write out a document in the name of Pax Christi and Pax Romana.

In spite of all this, the Commision decided to remove the East Timor question from its agenda by a vote of 11 to 9 and 20 abstentions.

This defeat was partly due to the passivity of the Portuguese diplomacy which was publicly denounced in an article in the 'Diário de Noticias', and also strongly criticized in the meetings we had at the Presidency of the Republic and the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

B -Future

- We were invited together with the CDPM, to a meeting by the'Counsellor of the Presidency of the Republic for the affairs of East Timor'. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was represented at the meeting by the special Ambassador for the Affairs of East Timor. The issue was analysed in view of the Portuguese diplo-

Rua de Campolide, 215, 4.º Dto. 1000 Lisboa Portugal

matic defeat at the Human Rights Commission. It was decided to try to take up the problem again in the same Commission. It was felt that the Portuguese State counted mainly on the action of the non-gouvernmental organizations to do this. So we made Known our wish to participate, but we also criticized the passivity of the State organization, demanding them to be more activ.

- A new meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to clarify some points on the reports to be presented to the United Nations. The meeting with the special Ambassador and a high official specialized in this subject once again made clear to us the lack of interest of the Portuguese Government and we renewed our demands.

- In spite of the lack of time and resources, we wrote out a serie of documents which were presented by the NGO Pax Romana, which is recognized by the UN.

A special document was prepared for the Committee on the subject of missing persons.

Because the main argument of the Commission to justify the removal of the question of East Timor was the lack of recent data, we prepared a list of persons who were emprisoned, tortured, missing and dead since August 1983 to the end 1984. We feel that this was the longest document of this type ever presented about East Timor, given the difficulties in obtaining data due to the blockade of information.

II - NATIONAL

A - MEDIA

1 . Press and radio

- reported the timorese cultural celebration of DAHUR in December and the T.V. invited the dance group to repeat its show ;
- reported our Communiqué on Peace Day (1/1/85);
- transmitted or reproduced the declarations made during the London Meeting (12-13/1/85);
- reported a Press Conference which we held together with CDPM on 7/5/85, at the time of Reagan's visit to Lisbon.
  - . We referred to Human Rights.
  - . We presented a document from the Church of Timor while the CDPM spoke on the role of the U.S.A. and about a letter sent to the Portuguese Authorities.
  - . The T.V. presented two news reports on this subject.

2 . Various collaborating activities

- 'Diário de Notícias'(4 articles); 'Voz do Trabalho'; 'Libertar'; 'Boa Nova'(missionary magazine) reproduced a chapter on the Church from our 'Caderno'. The newspaper 'O Dia' published an article on the same subject.

3 . Bulletins

- Nº 9 and 10 were published in Portuguese.
- A special Bulletin was published on the positions of the Churches. A condensed version could be published in other languages (French, English, German).

B - CHURCHES

1 . Peace Day campaign

- The campaign of posters and papers to be used in the curches, which was accepted by the Bishops who took charge of its transmission, still went on. We took charge of the distribution in the Diocese of Lisbon.

2 . Nunciature

-Documents were handed and a meeting was held with the Nuncio's secretary.

3 . A new group in the North (Oporto)

After the December meeting a new group "Peace and Justice for East Timor", was started in Oporto. The group will stimulate the information and reflection on East Timor among the christian circles in the north of the country.

4 . Presbyterian Church

- An undersigned which passed around in this Church was handed at the Indonesian Embassy in Madrid by this Church's authorities in Spain.

5 . Ecumenic Stand

- This initiative was well received by the Protestant Churches, but was "blocked" by the Catholic Episcopal Conference who felt it was unnecessary to renew its intervention in the matter.
  We are now trying to approach the Ecumenic Committee of the Episcopal Conference to take a statement on the question.

6 . Cardinal Casaroli

- At the time of the visit of C.^{al} Casaroli, Vatican S.S., we handed a letter with a 'dossier' at the Nunciature. The Cardinal replied that the Holy See was following the issue with much attention.

7 . Meeting of Rural Catholic Action (Achada)

- Joint meeting of some members of our group and Timorese re fugees,with rural christians from a little to the north of Lisbon.

8 . Meeting for information and reflection among christians - 25/5/85

- Journey with representants of christians groups desiring to work more efficiently in the solidarity with East Timor. Members of the timorese

comunity of refugees in Lisbon were present, as well as Mons.da Costa Lopes, and talked about their dificulties as refugees, and their experience in East Timor. We reflected about how to spread out the information in the circle where each one works. The participants wrote to a producer of the T.V., to obtain one or various programs about East Timor question. It was also decided a next meeting for October-November.

9 . Distribution of document from the Church of Timor (Mons.Belo and Presbiterial Council)

- Press Conference
- Portuguese authorities more directly related to the question of E. Timor
- Portuguese Bishops
- Churches personalities.

C - HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- 'Dossier' handed to the representative of the High Commissionary for Refugees, at his request.
- Participation at the 41.st Session of the Human Rights Commission in Genève.
- Meetings with Portuguese authorities at the P.R. and F.A.M.
- Letters to this authorities.
- Preparation of a 'dossier' for the United Nations.

D - REFUGEES

- DAHUR Party : This party more than satisfied the purposes we had established. It make TIMORESE CULTURE known further than the persons present at the party.
  As we have already referred, the T.V. invited the timorese group to one its largest audience programmes.
  The group has also been invited to a show in the north of Portugal, (MOSELOS), in a party of solidarity with East Timor;
  In SETUBAL (in the south) the group was very much appreciated, during a concert for the singer José Afonso.
  Besides drawing the attention of the public to the problem of East Timor these shows also stimulated in the refugees their self-confidence and pride in their own culture.

- Christmas Party for the children in a timorese refugee camp near Lisbon (Vale do Jamor).

Some of the members of our group have maintained contacts with the refugees but, due to lack of time there have not been any joint activities, except the participation in some meetings of the Rural Catholic Action.

III - INTERNATIONAL

A - MASS MEDIA

- BBC in Portuguese, at the meeting of London.
- KIPA Agency in Switzerland and CSI Bulletin through material supplied to CSI.
- French Bulletin nº 9 and 10.
- 'Timor - Link' in collaboration with CIIR.
- German Bulletin - nº1 - in collaboration with KED.
- Collaboration in the Bulletin of the 'East Timor Association' (France).
- Newspapers and radio in Venezuela, participation in the Peace University in Caracas (see B-2).

B - MEETINGS

1 . London - International Meeting of Solidarity with East Timor

- Our group was in charge of the presentation of data in relation to the Churches - in East Timor and at the international level.
- We also presented a joint paper, together with CDPM, on the role of the Portuguese Government.
- We have been asked to present a review of the statements of the Churches to be eventually published (special nº of the Bulletin).

2 . Caracas - Peace University

- Together with CDPM we participated in the expenses of eng. B.de Magalhães in this meeting on self determination and succeeded in having the East Timor question included, although it was not originally expected in the agenda. This was finally a point which was better accepted by public opinion in Venezuela, where the radio and newspapers gave a lot of attention to the subject.
  There was a final motion on East Timor and important contacts were made, including political contacts.

C - CHURCHES

- Contact with the World Council of Churches in Genève.
- Distribution of documents from the Church of East Timor.
- International meeting (in preparation).

CONCLUSION

- The role of the Churches in the question of East Timor is growing more important.
- Portugal and Indonesia are at present negociating cultural and religious rights and liberties.

- A recent statement from the Catholic Church in East Timor clearly denounces the "publicity" made by Indonesia who,also using the Church authority, quotes the words of Mons.Belo.

It is indispensable to keep in touch with this question in order to be able to denounce Indonesian plans at any moment. It is necessary to strenghten our international contacts,to spread information more rapidly and also to try to improve direct contacts with the interior.

The Government of Indonesia has the intention of diminishing the role of the five main religions recognized by the Pancasila.

This plan will not be accepted by the religions, and therefore we can expect a rising conflict between the State and the religions, particularly the Catholic and Protestant Churches.

Lisbon, June 1985.